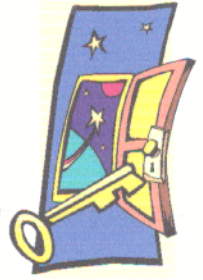


V. SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS

The information in this report was intended as a brief overview of who we are in Tempe and the human services being provided through the City of Tempe to help its citizens most in need. The information in this Phase II inventory report (to be periodically updated) will serve as a baseline for the four additional studies to take place around these target groups: Aging, Disability, Children & Youth and Adults & Families. We hope the information here will be useful to the study groups and to anyone else with an interest in Tempe.



The data herein tells us that Tempe has its share of human service problems, that the City and the community at large has made a significant response to those problems, but also that there are many needs yet unmet. Decisions were made many years ago that Tempe should focus on quality of life for its citizens rather than strive for quantity through the explosive growth more typical in other parts of the valley and state. The PIP will, we hope, add a worthwhile and useful component to that effort for quality of life for its citizens in greater need.

It should be noted that there are many things not included in this report. For instance, we did not include an accounting of the many public and private agencies now providing services to benefit Tempeans which are not funded by the City - e.g., the county and state health departments, the AZ Dept. of Economic Security and many other non-profit organizations. Such an accounting was not included in part because of the size of the list - over 1,100 human service agencies are listed in the Information and Referral Maricopa County Human Services 2002 Directory. Also, there is a lack of readily available specific information about who and how many Tempeans are getting help from those organizations, likely necessitating a special study to find out. Instead, we will seek services information related to the specific target group during the related study process, e.g., find what agencies are serving the aging population of Tempe.

The general lack of or gaps in data related to human services is a continuing problem that often frustrates decision makers, perhaps all the more reason to look at the problems on the local level through citizen groups who know their community and care about it.

Using the approach used for the Homeless Task Force in the past, Phase III for the PIP is nearing completion through a study process for the **Aging** target group during the two-year budget cycle, FY 2001-2003. The Tempe Task Force on Aging has gathered information on needs and issues of Tempe's aging population, solicit community input and make recommendations to the City Council and the community at large. Similar studies are planned for subsequent years for the target groups for Disability, Children and Youth and Adults and Families. The Agency Review process will continue annually, whereby applications are opened for human service agencies to apply for City funds to help those in need across all target groups.